



Alberta Cancer  
Board

# Butting In

## Tobacco Control Update

from the Division of Population Health and Information

"Excuse me, but here's something that might interest you..."

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### Secondhand smoke causes breast cancer - EPA report

The California Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently released a public review draft report that concludes, "Overall, the weight of evidence (including biomarker, animal and epidemiological studies) is consistent with a causal association between ETS (environmental tobacco smoke) and breast cancer, which appears to be stronger for pre-menopausal breast cancer."

This, according to health physicist and ETS expert James Repace, is a "blockbuster" conclusion!

"This is the first time that any professional risk assessment agency has come to this conclusion," he said.



*the weight of evidence is consistent with a causal association between environmental tobacco smoke and breast cancer*

EPA draft report

"It will give tremendous impetus to world-wide smoking bans in the workplace, especially the hospitality industry."

The full report is available at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/ets/dreport/dreport.htm>.

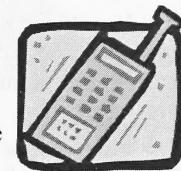
According to the report, "(Previous) studies assessing the association between passive smoking and breast cancer have generally reported a positive and often statistically significant association (between ETS and breast cancer).

"...The toxicological data on tobacco smoke constituents continue to strongly support that the risk associated with active smoking and with ETS exposure alone remains highly plausible."

*Sources:* James Repace, Health Physicist and CEO, Repace Associates, Inc.  
Proposed Identification of Environmental Tobacco Smoke as a Toxic Air Contaminant; Part B; Chapter 7; Page 147

### Smokers get help from telephone quit lines

Telephone counseling does help people who want to quit smoking, according to a recent study conducted 10 years after California set up the first telephone quit line in the United States.



Researchers at the University of California, San Diego, which runs that state's quit line, designed their study to see if free cessation support provided over the phone actually worked.

Smokers who received counseling on the quit line were twice as successful at quitting smoking as those who did not receive similar assistance, according to the research findings, which were published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

*help line users twice as successful at quitting*

California study

Twenty-one percent of those who received counseling had quit at the end of one month, but only 10 percent of

*continued on page 2*

## Quit lines

*... continued from page 1*

of those who did not receive counseling were successful. However, many of the smokers relapsed, and after one year, the rates decreased to eight percent and four percent, respectively.

Alberta's Smoker's Help Line, funded by AADAC and operated by Capital Health Region, has been available since August 6, 2002. Albertans can access the Smoker's Help Line by calling 1-866-33AADAC (1-866-332-2322) from anywhere in Alberta.

The call is free and confidential, and the line is available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Calls outside these hours are answered by a general AADAC Help Line operator who can offer support and information as needed and make arrangements for a Smoker's Help Line counselor to call back.

Operators will ask a series of questions to determine what approach to smoking cessation best meets the caller's needs.

All answers are optional and are not required to receive service, and all personal information voluntarily provided by the caller is kept confidential.

Capital Health and AADAC Tobacco Research Services will evaluate the quality, accessibility and effectiveness of the help line through follow-up interviews with callers.

*Sources:* Phone 'quitlines' help smokers kick habit, study says; by Stephanie Nano, AP.  
AADAC

## CORPORATE CORNER

### Spit tobacco and cancer connected

As early as 1982, Philip Morris executives were aware of the connection between chewing tobacco and oral cancer, according to company documents unearthed by Anne Landman.

Ms. Landman works for the American Lung Association and is researching tobacco company documents made public as a result of the Master Settlement Agreement in the United States, and she is publishing them on the

Globalink international tobacco control listserv.

Landman noted, "This 1982 Philip Morris memo was written after the company's Chief Executive Officer, Hugh Cullman, asked research director Thomas Osdene to investigate the biological effects of smokeless tobacco and report back.

"After researching the literature regarding smokeless tobacco, Osdene wrote back to Cullman (in the cover memo for this report) saying, 'I believe the correlation between the use of [smokeless tobacco] and oral cancer is quite strong...' (PM Bates No. 2001207640).

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*the correlation between the use of  
smokeless tobacco and oral cancer  
is quite strong*

Philip Morris memo

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The body of the report states, "Retrospective surveys have implicated snuff as a major risk factor in oral cancer, particularly in females.

"The geographic distribution of this cancer correlates directly with geographical areas of widespread snuff use. The most conclusive studies have shown that approximately 90% of the women in the rural Southeastern United States who develop cancers of the buccal mucosa (mouth mucus membrane) are snuff users."

The report goes on to note that microscopic tissue studies have shown that snuff use is associated with cancer of the oral cavity.

"Thus," Landman pointed out, "this memo shows that in 1982 Philip Morris knew the extent of the carcinogenic threat chewing tobacco posed to users. They also were aware that nicotine-dependent people commonly used chewing tobacco as a substitute for smoking."

*Source:* Bates No. 2001207641/7650

URL: <http://tobaccodocuments.org/landman/2001207641-7650.html>

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